

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 4, 1877, with transcript

1878 Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Mr. Alexander Graham Bell. My dear Alec:

I must begin a note to you now or you will not hear from me today.

I hope you reached home safely and had a comfortable journey and found things satisfactory. We reached home all right and Mamma has found the desire to hear you tomorrow night increasing inordinately and so is going to telegraph you to know if she can get a seat. She will go if Grandpa will let her, I cannot — however much I would like to — but then I have the advantage of full faith in the success of your experiments and she has not.

Somehow I feel perfect confidence in the success of everything you undertake.

The papers report Mr. Gray's experiment between Philadelphia and Brooklyn a much more successful affair than the one here. The high notes inaudible here were full and clear there.

Later — Mamma and I have been out and telegraphed to you. Now Mamma wants me to say it is very uncertain that she will go to your lecture she sent you word because it would be very inconvenient to come all the way from New York and find every seat taken. She is very anxious that you should not meet her. She will arrive at about seven and take a carriage directly to the Music Hall. She will wait for you after the lecture but she would rather come and go without seeing you than have you meet her. I think you had best let her have her way for she would be dreadfully nervous if you took any time away from your instruments.

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Poor Alec I am afraid you are having hard work now — with your lecture letters and examination papers. Have you found the bag? I wish I could help you dear.

Have you heard from Mr. Ponton yet? We have heard nothing from our travelers. I think Mamma is disappointed.

Lina and Auntie Berta, she appeared this morning, have gone to the Academy of Design. I don't envy them. I think the work and weariness of walking or standing about in those long galleries is seldom compensated for by the excellence of the pictures. I fear I haven't the true artistic instinct in me. I remember going twice to the famous Dresden gallery in the course of seven or eight months and I was quite old enough to know better.

Mr. Gray will have a very uncertain night for his experiments again. I do hope you will be more successful. I shall watch the skies anxiously tomorrow, and be ever with you in my thoughts. I have been reading "Noblesome Oblige" all this morning. It's a very pretty story I wish you would read it, you can get it at the public library it is by the Author of Nile Nori.

My darling goodbye, Ever your own loving, May.